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(54) RADIO BASE STATION DEVICE AND RADIO COMMUNICATION METHOD

(57) Direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b estimate directions of arrival for communication terminals. Grouping decision section 107 divides the communication terminals that belong to a sector into a plurality of groups based on the results of direction of

arrival estimations. Scramble code assignment control section 114 performs assignment control in such a way that a same scramble code is assigned to channels with similar (not necessarily completely the same) directivities.

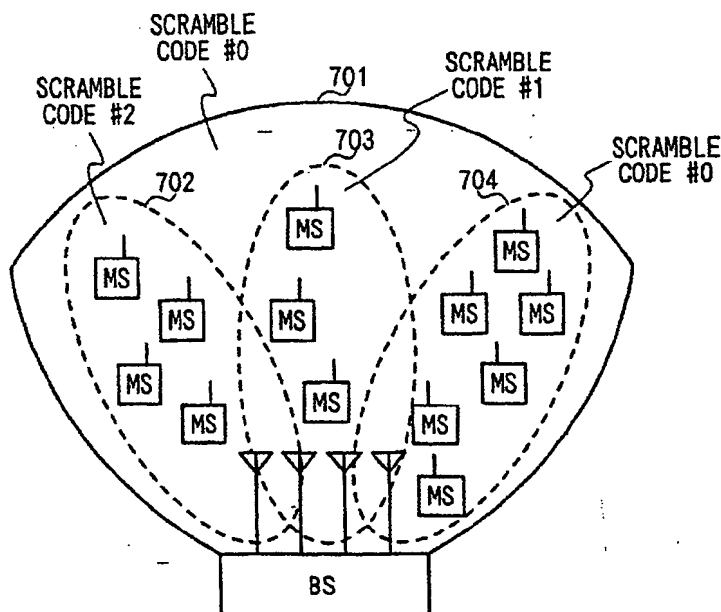


FIG. 8

EP 1 152 628 A1

Description

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a radio base station apparatus and radio communication method used in a digital radio communication system.

Background Art

[0002] In a digital radio communication system, in the case where transmission with controlled directivity is performed on a downlink (downlink adaptive array antenna transmission), the number of sectors, which means areas where transmission/reception is performed with same directivity, is expected to reduce. That is, it is possible to achieve an effect similar to sectorization by carrying out transmission with directivity, which transmits data with beams focused on a specific direction through signal processing, and therefore applying transmission with directivity is believed to reduce the number of physical sectors.

[0003] Thus, the number of channels (number of user terminals) that can be accommodated per sector will increase by reducing the number of sectors through effects of reducing the number of sectors and applying an adaptive array antenna, that is, by enabling transmission with directivity to be performed through signal processing. When the number of channels that can be accommodated within a sector increases, concerns rise that there will inevitably be a shortage of spreading codes under a same scramble code on the downlink. To resolve this shortage of spreading codes, it is anticipated that a plurality of scramble codes will be used within the same sector.

[0004] Conventionally, when a plurality of scramble codes is used within the same sector, the number of scramble codes is simply increased to resolve the shortage of spreading codes, and in this way scramble codes are assigned regardless of directivity of each channel. In such a case, as shown in FIG.1, there is a possibility that different scramble codes #0 to #2 will be used among a plurality of channels in a same direction.

[0005] Originally, a same scramble code is used in a sector and transmission from a base station is carried out in synchronization therewith, and therefore orthogonality with no cross-correlation interference among codes can be expected. However, if scramble codes #0 to #2, which vary among a plurality of channels in a same direction, are used, the orthogonality can no longer be guaranteed (expected).

[0006] Thus, compared to a case where no adaptive array antenna is used, that is, the same scramble code is used for all channels within a sector, there will be a problem in reception at each communication terminal that cross-correlation interference from other channels occurs and the reception characteristic deteriorates.

Disclosure of Invention

[0007] It is an object of the present invention to provide a radio base station apparatus and radio communication method capable of reducing cross-correlation interference among a plurality of channels when a plurality of scramble codes is used within a same sector.

[0008] A subject of the present invention is to assign a same scramble code to channels with similar (not necessarily the same) directivities in a system that uses transmission with controlled directivity on a downlink (adaptive array antenna), thereby improve orthogonality among a plurality of channels in a same direction and reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception from each communication terminal.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0009]

FIG.1 is a drawing to explain a conventional radio communication method;

FIG.2 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a radio base station apparatus according to Embodiment 1 of the present invention;

FIG.3 is a drawing to explain a radio communication method according to Embodiment 1 above;

FIG.4 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a radio base station apparatus according to Embodiment 2 of the present invention;

FIG.5 is a drawing to explain a radio communication method according to Embodiment 3 of the present invention;

FIG.6 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a radio base station apparatus according to Embodiment 3 above;

FIG.7 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a radio base station apparatus according to Embodiment 4 of the present invention; and

FIG.8 is a drawing to explain a radio communication method according to Embodiment 4 above.

Best Mode for Carrying out the Invention

[0010] With reference now to the attached drawings, embodiments of the present invention will be explained in detail below.

(Embodiment 1)

[0011] FIG.2 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a radio base station apparatus according to Embodiment 1 of the present invention. Here, a case where a plurality of scramble codes is used in a same sector will be explained. For brevity of explanations, a case where the number of channels (number of users) is 2, the number of antennas is 2 and the number of scramble

codes used is 2 will be explained.

[0012] Uplink signals received via antennas 101 and 102 are each passed through duplexers 103 and 104 and input to radio reception section 105. Radio reception section 105 applies radio reception processing such as down-conversion and A/D conversion to the reception signals to obtain baseband signals. These baseband signals are sent to direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b, respectively and at the same time sent to reception adaptive array antenna (reception AAA) circuits 109a and 109b, respectively.

[0013] Direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b estimate the directions of arrival of the reception signals of the respective channels (users). These direction of arrival estimation results are sent not only to grouping decision section 107 but also to transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b and reception AAA circuits 109a and 109b. Transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b calculate transmission weights based on the direction of arrival estimation results. These transmission weights are sent to transmission AAA circuits 123a and 123b for the respective channels (users).

[0014] Grouping decision section 107 decides groups that include terminals based on the direction of arrival estimation results. These decision results are sent to scramble code assignment control section 114.

[0015] Reception AAA circuits 109a and 109b apply reception AAA processing to the reception signals based on the direction of arrival estimation results from direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b and output the signals subjected to the reception AAA processing to matched filters 110 and 111 for each reception directivity.

[0016] Matched filters 110 and 111 carry out despreading processing on the reception signals using a scramble code (Scr) and spreading code (Spr). The despread signals are sent to demodulation sections 112 and 113, respectively, where the despread signals are subjected to demodulation processing and reception data 1 and 2 are obtained.

[0017] On the other hand, the decision results (grouping results) from grouping decision section 107 are sent to scramble code assignment control section 114, where scramble codes are assigned to the respective groups according to the decision results. Then, scramble code assignment control signals are output to switches 121 and 122.

[0018] Transmission data 1 and 2 are subjected to digital modulation processing at modulation sections 115 and 116, respectively. These modulated transmission data are subjected to spreading/modulation processing with different spreading codes (Spr) #1 and #2 by multipliers 117 and 118, respectively. Furthermore, the transmission data multiplied by the spreading codes are subjected to modulation processing by multipliers 119 and 120 using scramble codes #1 and #2 assigned as described above.

[0019] These transmission data subjected to spreading/modulation processing are input to transmission AAA circuits 123a and 123b, respectively. Transmission AAA circuits 123a and 123b apply transmission processing to the transmission data using the transmission weights obtained by transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b using the respective direction of arrival estimation results.

[0020] The transmission data subjected to respective transmission AAA processing are multiplexed by multiplexers 124 and 125 for the respective antennas and sent to radio transmission section 127. Radio transmission section 127 carries out radio transmission processing such as D/A conversion and up-conversion on the transmission data. The transmission signals subjected to radio transmission processing are passed through duplexers 103 and 104 and sent via antennas 101 and 102 as downlink signals.

[0021] Then, the method of assigning scramble codes by the radio base station apparatus in the above configuration will be explained.

[0022] The signals sent from the respective communication terminals are subjected to predetermined radio reception processing at radio reception section 105 and then subjected to direction of arrival estimation processing at direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b, respectively. There are various direction of arrival estimation methods such as a beam former method using FFT (Fast Fourier Transform), linear prediction method and minimum norm method, but the present invention is not limited to a particular method.

[0023] After direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b have performed direction of arrival estimation on the respective communication terminals, the estimation results are sent to grouping decision section 107. Grouping decision section 107 divides communication terminals that belong to the sector into at least two groups based on the direction of arrival estimation result.

[0024] An example of grouping method is that directions of arrival of respective communication terminals are divided into predetermined angle range groups and grouping is performed by deciding which communication terminal belongs to which angle range. The predetermined angle ranges for grouping are set, for example, relative to the antenna direction of the present radio base station apparatus. For example, when the communication terminals that belong to the sector are divided into three groups according to the directions of arrival, three angle ranges are set beforehand as shown in FIG. 3 and groups 201 to 203 are formed according to which communication terminal belongs to which angle range.

[0025] The decision results of grouping decision section 107, that is, the information on which communication terminal belongs to which angle range (group) are sent to scramble code assignment control section 114. Scramble code assignment control section 114 performs assignment control in such a way that a same

scramble code is assigned to channels with similar (not necessarily completely the same) directivities.

[0026] In this case, as described above, groups are set in such a way as to include channels with similar directivities based on the direction of arrival estimations. Therefore, by assigning a scramble code to each group, it is possible to assign a same scramble code to communication terminals (channels) with similar (not necessarily completely the same) directivities.

[0027] These assignment control signals are sent to switches 121 and 122, where the scramble codes are switched. Then, the scramble codes assigned to the respective groups are used for the downlink signals of communication terminals that belong to the respective groups.

[0028] For example, when grouping decision section 107 decides based on the directions of arrival that communication terminals A to G belong to group 1 and communication terminals H to K belong to group 2, scramble code #1 is assigned to group 1 and scramble code #2 is assigned to group 2. In this case, scramble code #1 is used for all the downlink signals corresponding to communication terminals A to G and scramble code #2 is used for all the downlink signals corresponding to communication terminals H to K.

[0029] On the other hand, the direction of arrival estimation results are sent to reception AAA circuits 109a and 109b, where reception weights are calculated using the direction of arrival estimation results and reception directivities are formed according to these reception weights. Then, reception AAA circuits 109a and 109b perform reception AAA processing on the reception signals with these reception directivities.

[0030] Furthermore, the direction of arrival estimation results estimated at direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b are sent to transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b, where transmission weights specific to the respective communication terminals are calculated. Transmission directivities are formed according to these transmission weights. Then, transmission AAA circuits 123a and 123b perform transmission AAA processing with these transmission directivities specific to the respective communication terminals. The transmission signals of the respective communication terminals subjected to transmission AAA processing are multiplexed by adders 124 and 125 for the respective antennas, subjected to processing such as D/A conversion and up-conversion at radio transmission section 127 and then sent with directivities from antennas 101 and 102.

[0031] As shown above, in a system that applies transmission with controlled directivities on the downlink (adaptive array antenna), the radio base station apparatus according to this embodiment groups communication terminals having similar directivities based on the directions of arrival of the communication terminals and assigns a same scramble code to all communication terminals that belong to the group. This makes it possible

to improve orthogonality among codes of downlink signals corresponding to the communication terminals that belong to the same group. This reduces cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception from the respective communication terminals.

[0032] When downlink signals are transmitted with directivities, this embodiment can also perform directivity control over the respective communication terminals individually or group the communication terminals and perform same directivity control over communication terminals that belong to a same group. In this case, as shown in FIG.2, group information decided by grouping decision section 107 based on the direction of arrival estimation results from direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b is output to transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b and transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b perform directivity control according to the group information for each group. Carrying out transmission directivity control on a group-by-group basis in this way can simplify processing for directivity control.

[0033] On the other hand, in the configuration of the reception section, matched filters 110 and 111 can also be provided before direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b or reception AAA circuits 109a and 109b. That is, direction of arrival estimations or AAA processing can also be carried out on the signals after despreading processing. Moreover, direction of arrival estimations or AAA processing can also be carried out independently of each other and with different algorithms. In the present invention, reception AAA processing is not regarded as essential.

(Embodiment 2)

[0034] This embodiment describes a case where downlink signals are individually subjected to directivity control and when a group weight is applied to uplink signals, communication terminals with almost a same directivity are grouped using the group weight and a scramble code is assigned to each group.

[0035] FIG.4 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a radio base station apparatus according to Embodiment 2 of the present invention. By the way, in FIG. 4, the same parts as those in FIG.2 are assigned the same reference numerals as those in FIG.2.

[0036] Uplink signals received via antennas 101 and 102 are passed through duplexers 103 and 104 and input to radio reception section 105. Radio reception section 105 applies radio reception processing such as down-conversion and A/D conversion to the reception signals to obtain baseband signals. These baseband signals are sent to direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b, respectively and at the same time sent to reception adaptive array antenna (reception AAA) circuits 109a and 109b, respectively.

[0037] Direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b estimate the directions of arrival of the recep-

tion signals of the respective channels (users). These direction of arrival estimation results are sent not only to grouping decision section 107 but also to transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b. Transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b calculate transmission weights based on the direction of arrival estimation results. These transmission weights are sent to transmission AAA circuits 123a and 123b for the respective channels (users).

[0038] Grouping decision section 107 decides groups that include terminals based on the direction of arrival estimation results. These decision results are sent to reception group weight calculation section 108 and at the same time sent to scramble code assignment control section 114.

[0039] Reception group weight calculation section 108 calculates a reception group weight for each group decided and sends these reception group weights to reception AAA circuits 109a and 109b for the respective groups. Reception AAA circuits 109a and 109b apply reception AAA processing to the reception signals and output the signals subjected to the reception AAA processing to matched filters 110 and 111 for the respective reception directivities.

[0040] Matched filters 110 and 111 carry out despreading processing on the reception signals using a scramble code (Scr) and spreading code (Spr). The despread signals are sent to demodulation sections 112 and 113, respectively, where the despread signals are subjected to demodulation processing and reception data 1 and 2 are obtained.

[0041] On the other hand, the decision results (grouping results) from grouping decision section 107 are sent to scramble code assignment control section 114, where scramble codes are assigned to the respective groups according to the decision results. Then, scramble code assignment control signals are output to switches 121 and 122.

[0042] Transmission data 1 and 2 are subjected to digital modulation processing at modulation sections 115 and 116, respectively. These modulated transmission data are subjected to spreading/modulation processing with different spreading codes (Spr) #1 and #2 by multipliers 117 and 118, respectively. Furthermore, the transmission data items multiplied by the spreading codes are subjected to modulation processing at multipliers 119 and 120 using scramble codes #1 and #2 assigned as described above.

[0043] These transmission data items subjected to spreading/modulation processing are input to transmission AAA circuits 123a and 123b, respectively. Transmission AAA circuits 123a and 123b apply transmission AAA processing to the transmission data using the transmission weights obtained by transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b using the respective direction of arrival estimation results.

[0044] The transmission data items subjects to respective transmission AAA processing are multiplexed

for the respective antennas by multiplexers 124 and 125 and sent to radio transmission section 127. Radio transmission section 127 carries out radio transmission processing such as D/A conversion and up-conversion on the transmission data. The transmission signals subjected to radio transmission processing are passed through duplexers 103 and 104 and sent via antennas 101 and 102 as downlink signals.

[0045] Then, the method of assigning scramble codes by the rad-io base station apparatus in the above configuration will be explained.

[0046] The signals sent from the respective communication terminals are subjected to predetermined radio reception procession at radio reception section 105 and then subjected to direction of arrival estimation processing at direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b, respectively. There are various direction of arrival estimation methods such as a beam former method using FFT (Fast Fourier Transform), linear prediction method and minimum norm method, but the present invention is not limited to a particular method.

[0047] Once direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b have performed direction of arrival estimation on the respective communication terminals, the estimation results are sent to grouping decision section 107. Grouping decision section 107 divides communication terminals that belong to the sector into at least two groups based on the direction of arrival estimation results. The grouping method is the same as that in Embodiment 1. By the way, grouping decision section 107 can be used commonly for the calculation of reception group weight of the uplink signals and the assignment of scramble codes of the downlink signals.

[0048] The decision result of grouping decision section 107, that is, the information on which communication terminal belongs to which angle range (group) is sent to scramble code assignment control section 114. Scramble code assignment control section 114 performs assignment control in such a way that a same scramble code is assigned to channels with similar (not necessarily completely the same) directivities.

[0049] The grouping decision result may be directly used for the assignment of scramble codes or may be used for assignment of scramble codes in such a way that communication terminals are re-grouped taking into account the number of spreading codes (code resource) used for the downlink signals based on the grouping decision result.

[0050] As described above, groups are set so as to include channels with similar directivities based on direction of arrival estimations. Therefore, by assigning a scramble code to each group, it is possible to assign a same scramble code to communication terminals (channels) with similar (not necessarily completely the same) directivities.

[0051] These assignment control signals are sent to switches 121 and 122, where the scramble codes are switched. Then, the scramble codes assigned to the re-

spective groups are used for the downlink signals of communication terminals that belong to the respective groups.

[0052] On the other hand, information from grouping decision section 107 (e.g., angle range information) is sent to group weight calculation section 108, where group-specific reception weights are calculated. Reception directivities are formed according to these reception weights. Then, reception AAA circuits 109a and 109b perform reception AAA processing with these group-specific reception directivities.

[0053] On the other hand, the direction of arrival estimation results of direction of arrival estimation circuits 109a and 109b are sent to transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b, where transmission weights for the respective communication terminals are calculated. Transmission directivities are formed according to these transmission weights. Then, transmission AAA circuits 123a and 123b perform transmission AAA processing with these transmission directivities for the respective communication terminals.

[0054] By the way, it is possible to perform adaptive signal processing at reception group weight calculation section 108 using an algorithm such as LMS (Least Means Square) or RLS (Recursive Least Squares).

[0055] As shown above, when group weights are used for the uplink signals in a system that uses transmission with directivities controlled on the downlink (adaptive array antenna), the radio base station apparatus according to this embodiment groups communication terminals having similar directivities based on the directions of arrival from the communication terminals and assigns a same scramble code to all the communication terminals that belong to the group. This improves orthogonality among codes of downlink signals corresponding to the communication terminals that belong to the group. This allows cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception of the respective communication terminals to be reduced. Moreover, it is also possible to use grouping decision results to calculate group weights of uplink signals, which can simplify processing of assigning scramble codes. As a result, it is possible to reduce processing load on the radio base station apparatus.

[0056] When the number of spreading codes (code resource) used for downlink signals is not enough, the explanations above relate to the use of the group decision result obtained by the calculation of group weights for the uplink signals. This control is performed taking into account the number of spreading codes (code resource) used for downlink signals as appropriate. That is, when the number of spreading codes is not enough, scrambling codes are assigned using the group decision result obtained in the calculation of group weights for the uplink signals as shown above and when the number of spreading codes is enough, grouping decision section 107 performs re-grouping processing and assigns scrambling codes according to the decision result. That

is, when the number of spreading codes used for the downlink signals is enough, grouping decision section 107 performs processing of assigning a same scramble code to a plurality of groups or carrying out grouping using the number of terminals (number of channels) within a range that no shortage of spreading codes is produced as a maximum value.

[0057] In this case, as shown in FIG.4, grouping decision section 107 selects whether the grouping decision result for the reception group weight should be directly used for scramble code assignment control or the grouping decision result should not be used or grouping processing should be done over, according to the code resource information.

[0058] For example, this can be explained based on the code resource information using FIG.3. In the case where there is no shortage of code resource according to the code resource information, grouping decision section 107 sends a control signal indicating that no grouping decision result will be used to scramble code assignment control section 114 and scramble code assignment control section 114 assigns a same scramble code to all groups 201 to 203. Or in the case where there is no shortage of code resources, grouping decision section 107 does over grouping processing and performs grouping into group 202, 203 and group 201. Then, grouping decision section 107 sends the re-grouping decision result to scramble code assignment control section 114, where a same scramble code #0 is assigned to the communication terminals that belong to groups 202 and 203 and a different scramble code #1 is assigned to the communication terminal that belongs to group 201. On the other hand, in the case where there is a shortage of code resources according to the code resource information, a same scramble code is assigned to each group using the grouping decision result for the reception group weights as described above.

[0059] In the respect of reception AAA regarding uplink signals, group 202 and group 203 have quite different directivities, and therefore it is better from the standpoint of the reception characteristic to distinguish and receive those signals as signals that belong to different groups. This respect is independent of the number of terminals in each group. On the other hand, for downlink signals, it depends on the number of terminals whether a same scramble code should be assigned to these group 202 and group 203. Therefore, if there is no shortage of spreading codes, assigning a same scramble code to group 202 and group 203 will improve orthogonality and will be advantageous from the standpoint of reducing cross-correlation interference.

[0060] Therefore, when group weights are used for uplink signals in a system that uses transmission with controlled directivities on the downlink, it is possible to improve the reception characteristic by carrying out grouping decision and changing scramble code assignment control based on the code resource information, and reduce cross-correlation interference from other

channels during reception from the respective communication terminals as well.

[0061] When downlink signals are transmitted with directivity, this embodiment can perform directivity control to the respective communication terminals individually as described above or can divide the respective communication terminals into groups and perform control with a same directivity on communication terminals that belong to a same group.

[0062] In this case, as shown in FIG.4, grouping decision section 107 decides group information based on the direction of arrival estimation results from direction of arrival estimation sections 106a and 106b and outputs the decided group information to transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b and transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b perform directivity control for each group according to the group information. On the other hand, the reception group weights obtained from the group information decided by grouping decision section 107 are output to transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b and transmission weight calculation sections 126a and 126b perform directivity control for each group according to the group information.

[0063] As shown above, by carrying out transmission directivity control for each group, it is possible to simplify directivity control processing.

(Embodiment 3)

[0064] As shown in FIG.5, this embodiment describes a case where scramble codes are changed within a same sector when communication terminal 401 moves across different groups.

[0065] FIG.6 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a radio base station apparatus according to Embodiment 3 of the present invention. In FIG.6, the same parts as those in FIG.2 are assigned the same reference numerals as those in FIG.2 and detailed explanations thereof will be omitted.

[0066] The radio base station apparatus includes group changeover decision section 501 that decides whether or not to change a group when a change takes place in set grouping as a communication terminal moves and changeover timing control section 502 that controls the changeover timing.

[0067] In the radio base station apparatus configured as shown above, a case where the communication terminal moves and a group changeover is made will be explained. First, the directions of arrival of reception signals of the respective communication terminals are estimated. The method of estimating the directions of arrival is the same as that in Embodiment 1.

[0068] Next, grouping decision section 107 is monitoring the directions of arrival and when a group changeover takes place with a communication terminal, grouping decision section 107 sends a signal indicating that the group will be changed to group changeover decision

section 501. Upon reception of the signal that the group will be changed, group changeover decision section 501 sends a control signal to an upper layer to negotiate with the communication terminal whose group is changed.

[0069] Then, the information that the scramble code will be changed is notified to the communication terminal whose group is to be changed through the upper layer. The upper layer then sends a changeover control signal indicating that a changeover between scramble codes is allowed to changeover timing control section 502. Upon reception of the changeover control signal, changeover timing control section 502 sends a control signal to grouping decision section 107 to instruct the changeover timing. Grouping decision section 107 updates the group to which the communication terminal above belongs based on the changeover timing above. That is, grouping decision section 107 updates the group to which communication terminal 401 belongs from group 203 to group 202.

[0070] The information updated by grouping decision section 107, that is, the group information indicating which communication terminal belongs to which angle range (group) is sent to scramble code assignment control section 114. Scramble code assignment control section 114 performs assignment control in such a way that a same scramble code is assigned to channels with almost identical directivities in the same way as in Embodiment 1.

[0071] By the way, the operation of calculating transmission weights from the direction of arrival estimation results and performing transmission AAA processing on transmission data with the transmission weights and the operation of calculating reception group weights based on the grouping decision results and performing reception AAA processing on reception signals using the reception group weights are the same as those in Embodiment 1.

[0072] As shown above, this embodiment can assign a same scramble code to channels with almost identical directivities also when the communication terminal moves and a change takes place to the group and thereby improve orthogonality among codes of downlink signals for communication terminals with almost identical directivities. This makes it possible to reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception from each communication terminal.

(Embodiment 4)

[0073] This embodiment describes a case where assignment of scramble codes according to the present invention is performed when signals are transmitted by combining channels carrying out transmission with no directivity and channels carrying out transmission with directivity.

[0074] FIG. 7 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a radio base station apparatus according to Embodiment 4 of the present invention. By the way, FIG.

7 only describes the transmitting side. The receiving side of this radio base station apparatus has the same configuration as those shown in FIG.2, FIG.4 and FIG.6.

[0075] Transmission data 1 and 2, which are communication channels of voice signals and packet signals are subjected to digital modulation processing at modulation sections 601 and 602. These transmission data subjected to modulation processing are subjected to spreading modulation processing using different spreading codes (Spr) #1 and #2 at multipliers 603 and 604, respectively. These transmission data multiplied by the respective codes are subjected to modulation processing at multipliers 605 and 606 using scramble codes assigned by scramble code assignment control section 612.

[0076] The transmission data subjected to modulation processing in this way are input to transmission AAA circuits 607a and 607b, respectively. Transmission AAA circuits 607a and 607b perform transmission AAA processing on the transmission data with the transmission weights obtained using the direction of arrival estimation results, etc.

[0077] The transmission data subjected to transmission AAA processing are multiplexed by multiplexers 608 and 609 for the respective antennas and sent to radio transmission section 610. Radio transmission section 610 carries out radio transmission processing such as D/A conversion and up-conversion on the transmission data. The transmission signals subjected to radio transmission processing are transmitted as downlink signals via antennas 611a and 611b, which make up an adaptive array antenna.

[0078] On the other hand, the control data, which is a common control channel signal that carries out transmission with no directivity is subjected to digital modulation processing by modulation section 613. This transmission data subjected to modulation processing is subjected to spreading/modulation processing with spreading code (Spr) #0 by multiplier 614. Furthermore, the transmission data multiplied by the spreading code is subjected to modulation processing using scramble code #0 by multiplier 615.

[0079] The transmission data subjected to spreading/modulation processing in this way is sent to radio transmission section 616. Radio transmission section 616 carries out radio transmission processing such as D/A conversion and up-conversion on the transmission data. The transmission signal subjected to radio transmission processing is transmitted as a downlink signal via antenna 617 making up an adaptive array antenna.

[0080] The scramble code assignment control at the radio base station apparatus in the above configuration will be explained.

[0081] First, the directions of arrival of reception signals of the respective communication terminals are estimated. The method of estimating directions of arrival is the same as that in Embodiment 1. Then, communication terminals within a same sector are grouped

based on the directions of arrival of the respective communication terminals. This grouping information, that is, the group information indicating which communication terminal belongs to which angle range (group) is sent to scramble code assignment control section 612. Scramble code assignment control section 612 performs assignment control in such a way that a same scramble code is assigned to channels with almost identical directivities in the same way as in Embodiment 1. In this case, assignment control is performed taking into account orthogonality with the common control channel signal transmitted with no directivity.

[0082] More specifically, when transmission with no directivity is combined with transmission with directivity, directivities are formed as shown in FIG.7. Here, if scramble codes are changed between a channel for transmission with no directivity (e.g., a common control channel) and a channel for transmission with directivity (e.g., a communication channel), it is impossible to guarantee orthogonality between the channel for transmission with no directivity and channel for transmission with directivity and cross-correlation interference occurs from each other's channel, thus deteriorating the reception characteristic.

[0083] Thus, scramble code assignment control section 612 performs control in such a way that a scramble code set for a channel carrying out transmission with no directivity is selected and assigned to at least one (here one) group that carries out transmission with directivity. For example, scramble code assignment control section 612 actually performs control in such a way that a scramble code set for a channel carrying out transmission with no directivity is selected and assigned to a group with the largest number of channels (number of users), that is, group to which the most communication terminals belong. More specifically, as shown in FIG. 8, when scramble code #0 is set in the channel for transmission with no directivity in sector 701, scramble code #0 is assigned to group 704 to which the most communication terminals belong. Other scramble codes #1 and #2 are assigned to other groups 702 and 703, respectively.

[0084] By assigning scramble codes #0 to #2 in this way, it is possible to reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels for as many communication terminals as possible. In this case, it is desirable that there be conditions that will not cause a shortage of codes.

[0085] Or when transmission with no directivity is combined with transmission with directivity, it is also possible to give up orthogonality between the channel for transmission with no directivity and the channel for transmission with directivity and assign a scramble code different from the scramble code used for the channel for transmission with no directivity to the channel for transmission with directivity for each group in the same way as in Embodiment 1.

[0086] Furthermore, when transmission with no direc-

tivity is combined with transmission with directivity, the antenna for transmission with no directivity is separated from the antenna for transmission with directivity, but these need not always be separated and it is also possible to carry out transmission with no directivity using the antenna for transmission with directivity.

[0087] By the way, the operation of calculating transmission weights from the direction of arrival estimation results and performing transmission AAA processing on transmission data with the transmission weights and the operation of calculating reception group weights based on the grouping decision results and performing reception AAA processing on reception signals with the reception group weights are the same as those in Embodiment 1.

[0088] Embodiments 1 to 4 above can be implemented by combining with one another as appropriate. The present invention is not limited to Embodiments 1 to 4 above, but can be implemented with various modifications. For example, Embodiments 1 to 4 above describe the case where there are two or three antennas and two scramble codes, but the present invention is also applicable to cases where there are 3 or more scramble codes and 4 or more antennas.

[0089] Embodiments 1 to 4 above describe the case where reception signals are subjected to reception AAA processing and then despreading processing, but the present invention is also applicable to a case where reception AAA processing is carried out on signals subjected to despread processing.

[0090] The radio base station apparatus of the present invention comprises a direction of arrival estimation section that estimates directions of arrival of reception signals from communication terminals, a division section that divides the respective communication terminals into groups based on the directions of arrival, a scramble code assignment control section that assigns scramble codes differing from one group to another and a transmission section that performs transmission with directivity of transmission signals modulated using the assigned scramble codes to the respective communication terminals.

[0091] In a system that applies transmission with controlled directivity on the downlink (adaptive array antenna), this configuration divides the communication terminals having similar directivities into groups based on the directions of arrival of the communication terminals and assigns a same scramble code to all communication terminals that belong to the group, and can thereby improve orthogonality among codes of downlink signals with respect to the communication terminals that belong to a same group. This makes it possible to reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception from the respective communication terminals.

[0092] The radio base station apparatus of the present invention in the above configuration adopts a configuration with the dividing means dividing the communication terminals into groups based on the direc-

tions of arrival in transmission to the communication terminals.

[0093] According to this configuration, it is possible to group a plurality of channels (users) of the uplink signals and unify the grouping to determine a group weight to carry out reception with directivity using a common weight within a same group (hereinafter referred to as "group weight") and the grouping for scramble code assignment, which simplifies processing to assign scramble codes when transmission with group directivity is performed on the uplink.

[0094] The radio base station apparatus of the present invention configured as shown above adopts a configuration with the division section carrying out re-dividing processing based on code resource information.

[0095] By changing grouping decision and scramble code assignment control based on the code resource information when group weights are used for uplink signals, this configuration can improve the reception characteristic and reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception from each communication terminal as well.

[0096] The radio base station apparatus of the present invention configured as shown above adopts a configuration comprising a notification section that notifies, when a communication terminal changes the group as it moves, the communication terminal that the scramble code will be changed, a changeover timing control section that controls timing to change the scramble code, wherein the scramble code assignment control section assigns scramble codes after the changeover to the communication terminal whose group has been changed due to the movement.

[0097] This configuration makes it possible to accurately assign a same scramble code to channels with almost identical directivities even if the communication terminal moves and changes the group, and improve orthogonality among codes of downlink signals with respect to the communication terminals with almost identical directivities. This can reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception from the respective communication terminals.

[0098] The radio base station apparatus of the present invention configured as shown above adopts a configuration with the scramble code assignment control section carrying out assignment control in such a way that a scramble code set in at least one of channels carrying out transmission with directivity matches the scramble code set in channels carrying out transmission with no directivity.

[0099] The radio base station apparatus of the present invention configured as shown above adopts a configuration with the scramble code assignment control section assigning the same scramble code as the scramble code set in channels carrying out transmission with no directivity to a group to which the most communication terminals belong.

[0100] This configuration can reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels for as many communication terminals as possible.

[0101] The communication terminal apparatus of the present invention is characterized by carrying out radio communication with the radio base station apparatus in the above configuration. This guarantees orthogonality of a plurality of scramble downlink signals even if a plurality of scramble codes is used within a same sector, preventing the reception characteristic from deteriorating.

[0102] The radio communication method of the present invention comprises a direction of arrival estimating step of estimating directions of arrival of reception signals from communication terminals, a dividing step of dividing the communication terminals into groups based on the directions of arrival, a scramble code assignment controlling step of assigning scramble codes differing from one group to another and a transmitting step of transmitting transmission signals modulated using the assigned scramble codes to the communication terminals with directivity.

[0103] In a system that applies transmission with controlled directivity on the downlink (adaptive array antenna), this method divides the communication terminals having similar directivities into groups based on the directions of arrival of the communication terminals and assigns a same scramble code to all communication terminals that belong to the group, and can thereby improve orthogonality among codes of downlink signals with respect to the communication terminals that belong to a same group. This makes it possible to reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception from the respective communication terminals.

[0104] The radio communication method above of the present invention comprises a notification step of notifying, when a communication terminal changes the group as it moves, the communication terminal that the scramble code will be changed, a changeover timing controlling step of controlling timing to change the scramble code, wherein the scramble code assignment controlling step assigns scramble codes after the changeover to the communication terminal whose group has been changed due to the movement.

[0105] This method makes it possible to accurately assign a same scramble code to channels with almost identical directivities even if the communication terminal moves and changes the group and improve orthogonality among codes of downlink signals with respect to the communication terminals with almost identical directivities. This can reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception of the respective communication terminals.

[0106] The scramble code assignment controlling step of the radio communication method above of the present invention assigns the same scramble code as the scramble code set in channels carrying out transmission with no directivity to a group to which the most

communication terminals belong.

[0107] This method can reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels for as many communication terminals as possible.

[0108] As described above, the radio base station apparatus and radio communication method of the present invention assigns a same scramble code to channels with similar (not necessarily completely the same) directivities in a system that applies transmission with controlled directivity on the downlink (adaptive array antenna), which makes it possible to improve orthogonality among a plurality of channel codes in a same direction and reduce cross-correlation interference from other channels during reception from communication terminals.

[0109] This application is based on the Japanese Patent Application No. HEI 11-349465 filed on December 8, 1999, entire content of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

Industrial Applicability

[0110] The present invention is applicable to a radio base station apparatus and radio communication method in a digital radio communication system.

Claims

1. A radio base station apparatus comprising:
 - direction of arrival estimating means for estimating directions of arrival of reception signals from communication terminals;
 - dividing means for dividing said communication terminals into groups based on said directions of arrival;
 - scramble code assignment controlling means for assigning scramble codes differing from one said group to another; and
 - transmitting means for performing transmission with directivity of transmission signals modulated using the assigned scramble codes to said communication terminals.
2. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the dividing means divides said communication terminals into transmission groups based on said directions of arrival in transmission to the communication terminals.
3. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the dividing means carries out re-dividing processing based on code resource information.
4. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting means performs direc-

tivity control individually on the communication terminals.

5. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting means performs same directivity control on the communication terminals that belong to each group.
6. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the direction of arrival estimating means carries out reception with directivity to reception signals based on the directions of arrival estimated by the direction of arrival estimating means.
7. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the scramble code assignment controlling means changes scramble code assignment control based on code resource information.
8. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the scramble code assignment controlling means performs control by assigning scramble codes using groups classified by the dividing means when there is a shortage of spreading codes, and assigns a same scramble code to a plurality of groups when there is no shortage of spreading codes.
9. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:
 - notifying means for notifying, when a communication terminal changes the group as a result of movement, said communication terminal that the scramble code will be changed; and
 - changeover timing controlling means for controlling timing to change said scramble code, wherein said scramble code assignment controlling means assigns scramble codes after the changeover to said communication terminal whose group has been changed due to said movement.
10. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the scramble code assignment controlling means performs assignment control in such a way that a scramble code set in at least one of the channels carrying out transmission with directivity matches the scramble code set in the channel carrying out transmission with no directivity.
11. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the scramble code assignment controlling means assigns the same scramble code as the scramble code set in the channel carrying out transmission with no directivity to a group to which the most communication terminals belong.
12. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the scramble code assignment controlling means performs assignment control in such a way that the scramble code set in the channel carrying out transmission with directivity is different from the scramble code set in the channel carrying out transmission with no directivity.
13. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 12, comprising an antenna for channels with no directivity and another antenna for channels with directivity.
14. The radio base station apparatus according to claim 12, comprising the same antenna for channels with no directivity as the antenna for channels with directivity.
15. A communication terminal apparatus that carries out radio communication with a radio base station apparatus, said radio base station apparatus comprising:
 - direction of arrival estimating means for estimating directions of arrival of reception signals from communication terminals;
 - dividing means for dividing said communication terminals into groups based on said directions of arrival;
 - scramble code assignment controlling means for assigning scramble codes differing from one said group to another; and
 - transmitting means for performing transmission with directivity of transmission signals modulated using the assigned scramble codes to said communication terminals.
16. A radio communication method comprising:
 - a direction of arrival estimating step of estimating directions of arrival of reception signals from communication terminals;
 - a dividing step of dividing said communication terminals into groups based on said directions of arrival;
 - a scramble code assignment controlling step of assigning scramble codes differing from one said group to another; and
 - a transmitting step of performing transmission with directivity of transmission signals modulated using the assigned scramble codes to said communication terminals.
17. The radio communication method according to claim 16, comprising:
 - a notifying step of notifying, when a communication terminal changes the group as a result

of movement, said communication terminal that the scramble code will be changed; and a changeover timing controlling step of controlling timing to change said scramble code, wherein said scramble code assignment controlling step assigns scramble codes after the changeover to said communication terminal whose group needs to be changed due to said movement.

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18. The radio communication method according to claim 16, wherein the scramble code assignment controlling step assigns the same scramble code as the scramble code set in the channel carrying out transmission with no directivity to a group to which the most communication terminals belong.

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19. The radio communication method according to claim 16 that performs processing of assigning scrambling codes differing from one group to another only when there is a shortage of spreading codes.

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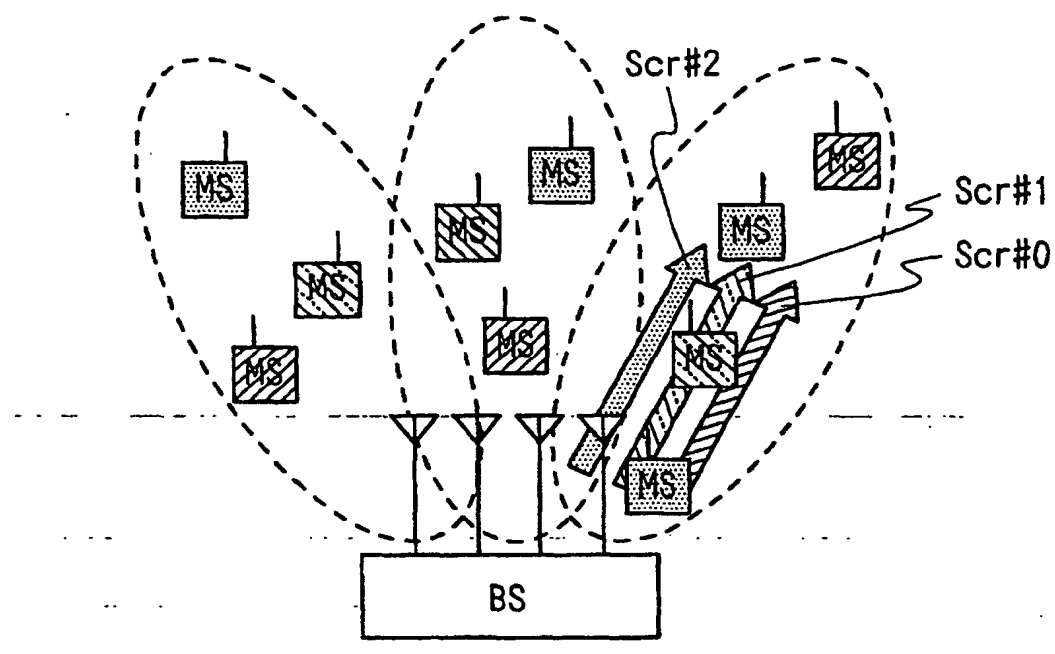


FIG. 1

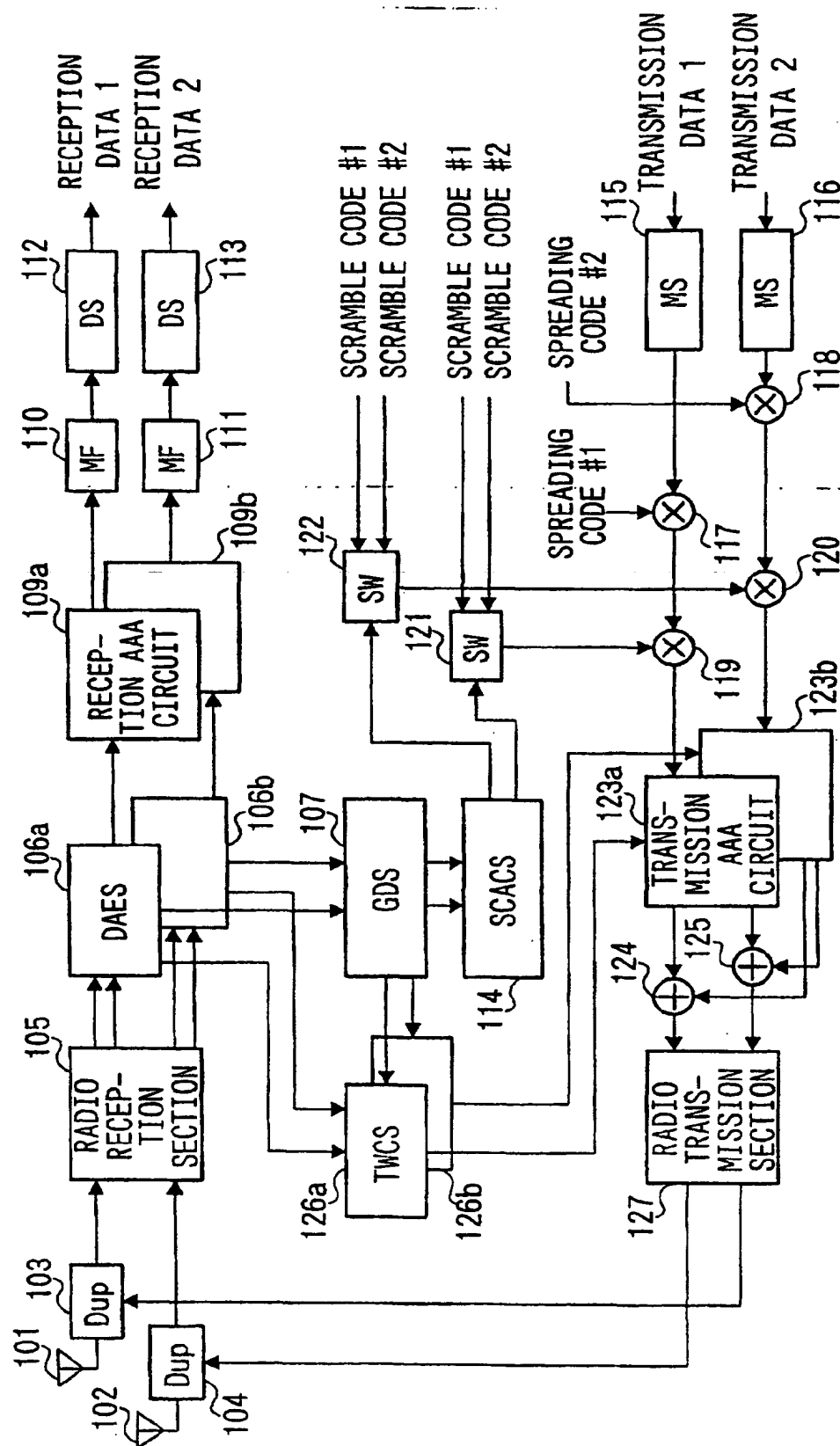


FIG. 2

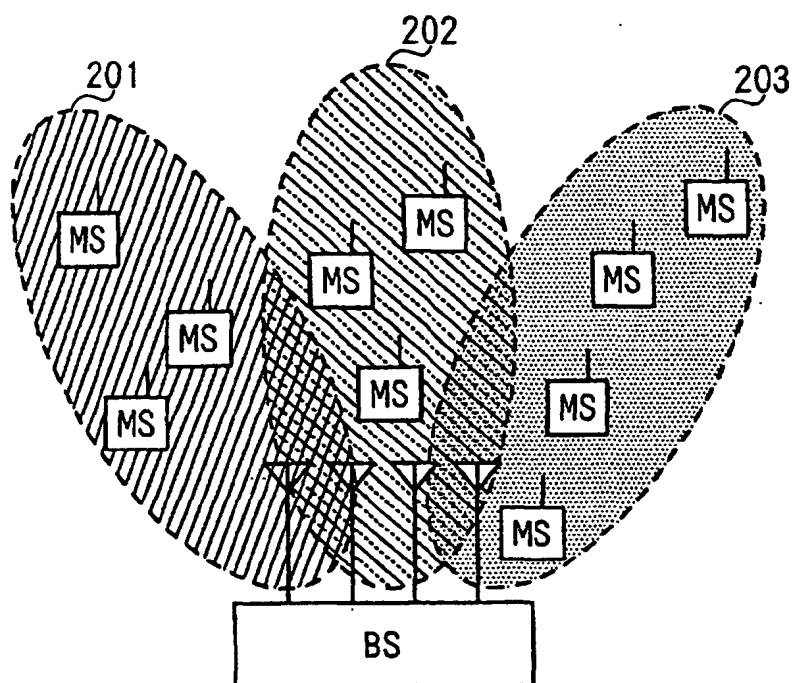


FIG. 3

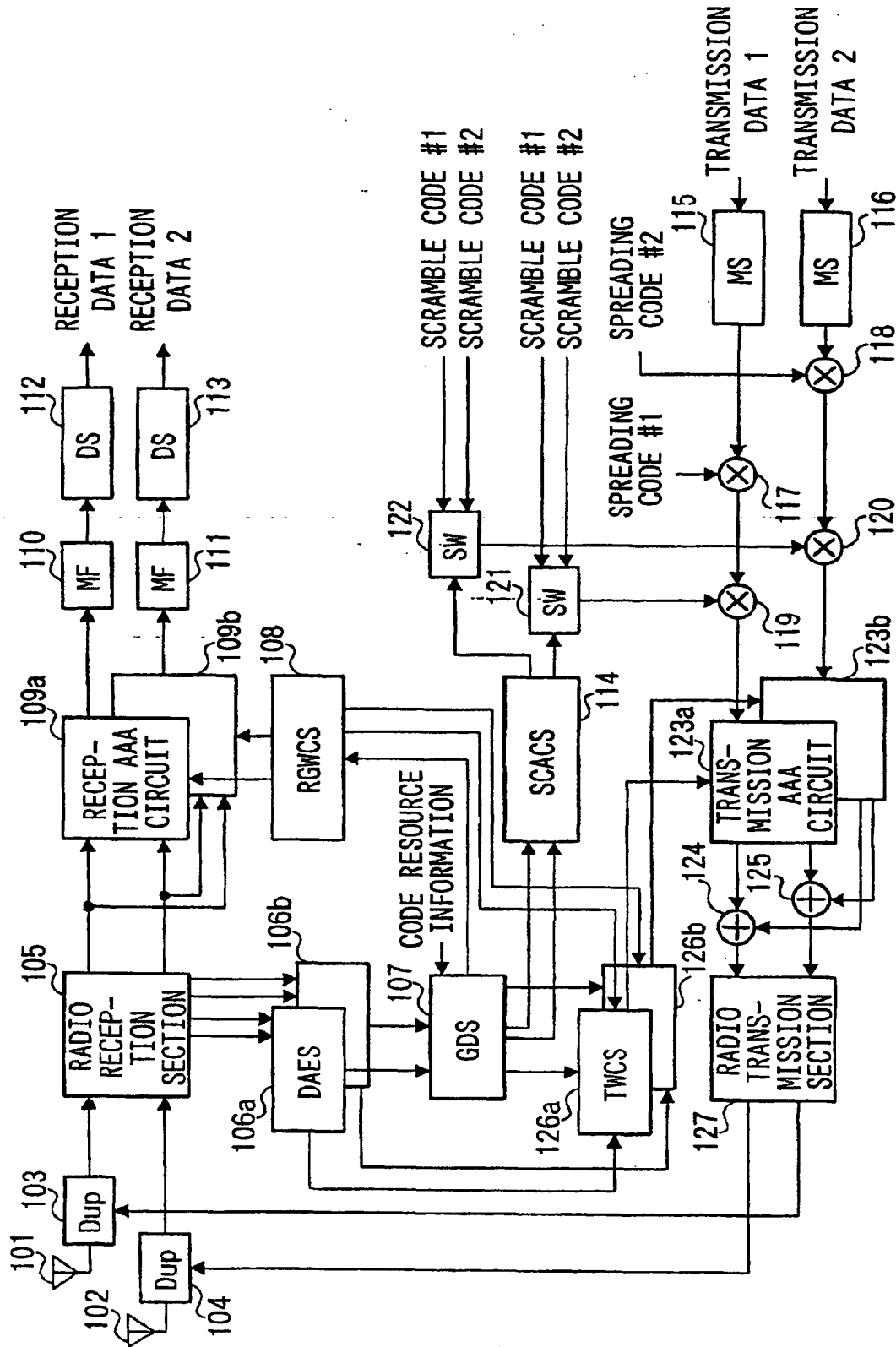


FIG. 4

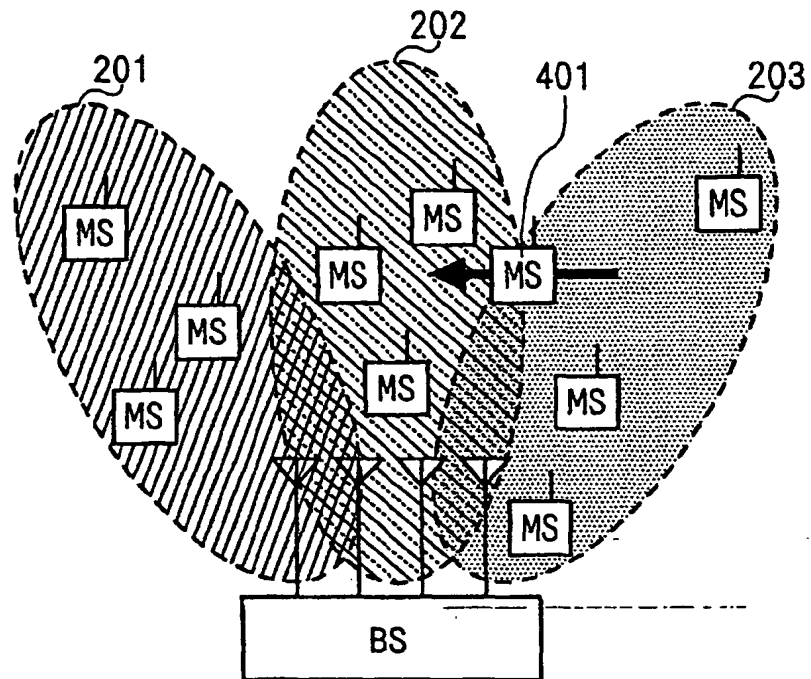


FIG. 5

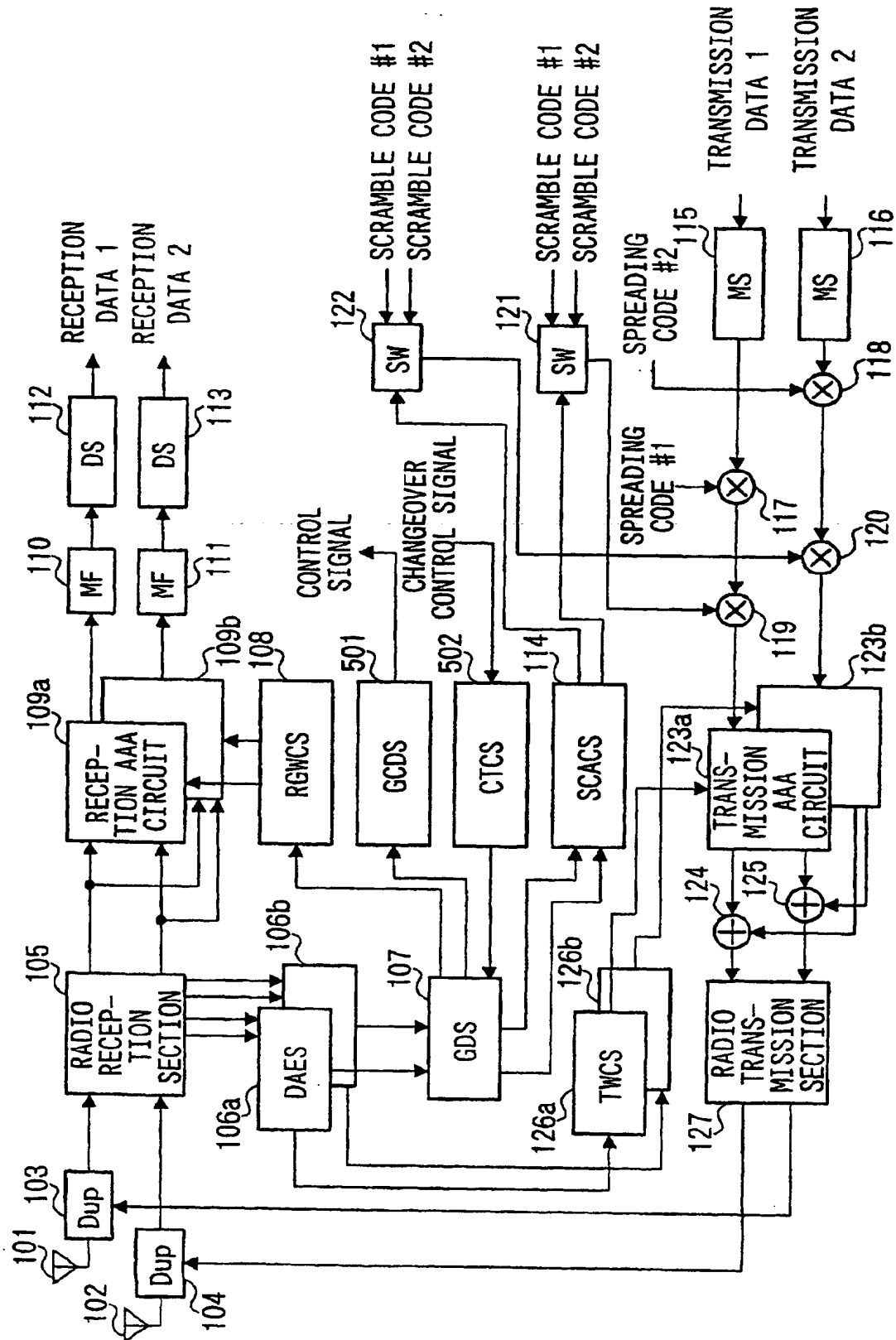


FIG. 6

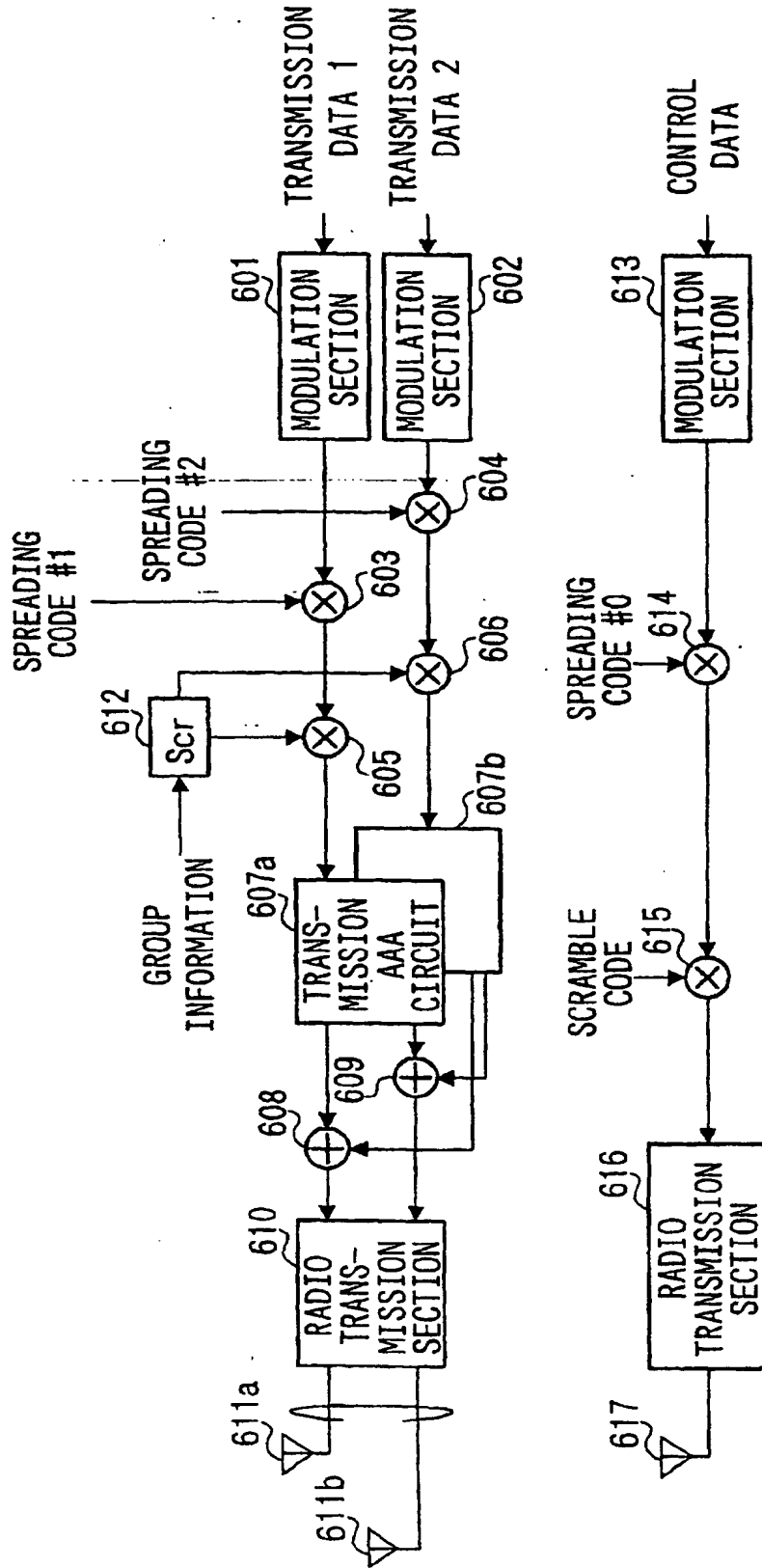


FIG. 7

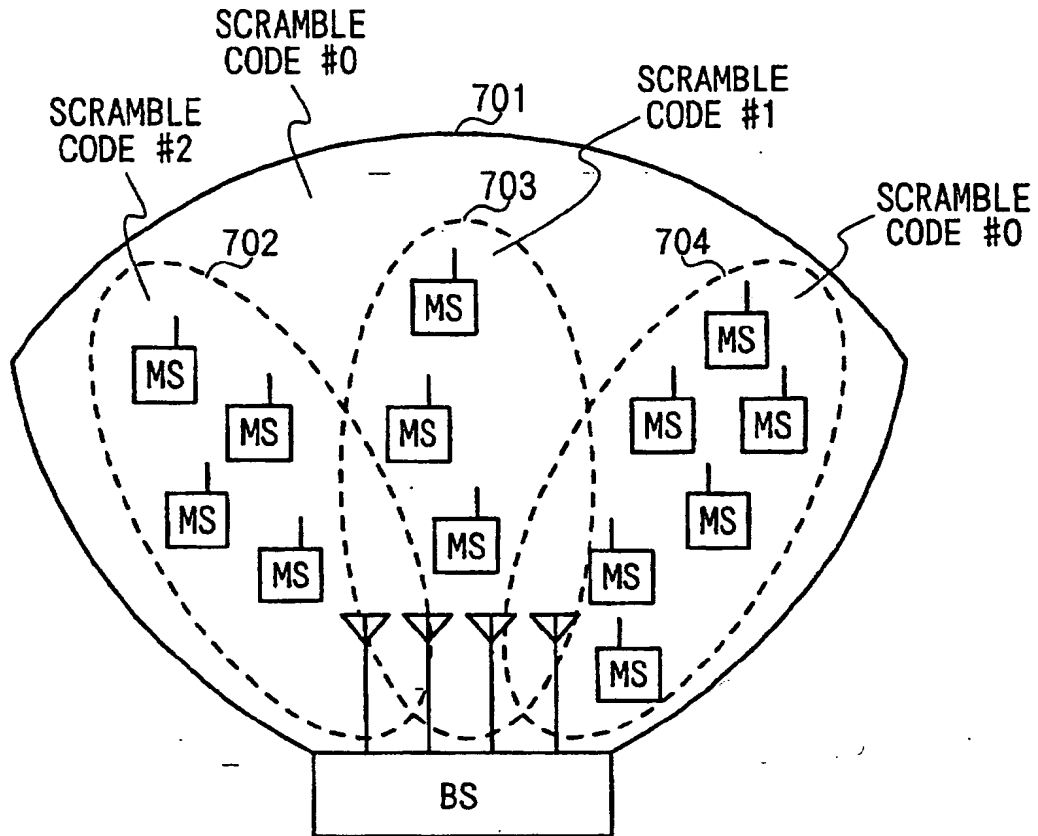


FIG. 8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP00/08660

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int. Cl.⁷ H04Q7/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int. Cl.⁷ H04B7/24-7/26, 102
H04Q7/00-7/38Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPI, English

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP, 11-298954, A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 29 October, 1999 (29.10.99), Full text & CN, 1235440, A	1-19
A	US, 5805996, A (Nokia Telecommunications Oy), 08 September, 1998 (08.09.98), Full text & DE, 69205993, C & AU, 3087992, A & FI, 915886, A & WO, 93012587, A1 & NO, 942190, A & EP, 616741, A & JP, 7-501914, A & AT, 130141, E & AU, 665596, B	1-19
A	JP, 10-75481, A (Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.), 17 March, 1998 (17.03.98), Full text (Family: none)	1-19
A	JP, 8-265837, A (Alcatel NV), 11 October, 1996 (11.10.96), Full text & AU, 4443996, A & FI, 960843, A	1-19

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
02 March, 2001 (02.03.01)Date of mailing of the international search report
13 March, 2001 (13.03.01)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP00/08660

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	& CA, 2170210, A & EP, 729285, A2 & DE, 19506439, A & NZ, 280989, A & US, 5732075, A1	

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)